

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT PROVIDES FURTHER DETAILS ON CLANDESTINE
COMMUNIST ACTIVITY

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3800, MONTEVIDEO 4406, MONTEVIDEO 4417,

SUMMARY:

1. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THE GOU PROVIDED THE PUBLIC WITH FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING THE MILITARY APPARATUS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF URUGUAY. REPORTERS AND OTHERS HAVE BEEN SHOWN AN IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF PCU WEAPONS, SAFE HOUSES, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, PROPAGANDA, UND TRANSPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. INCLUDED IN THE SITES SHOWN TO REPORTERS WAS A MANSION IN THE EXCLUSIVE SUBURB OF CARRASCO SAID TO HAVE BEEN USED FOR HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS OF PCU ACTIVITISTS. THERE WAS ALSO SHOWN A SUBTERRANEAN HIDEOUT IN ANOTHER LOCATION CONTAINING THREE ROOMS, A VENTILATION SYSTEM, AND AN ESCAPE TUNNEL TO AN ADJOINING RESIDENCE. URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS SAID THIS UNDERGROUND STRUCTURE WAS USED TO HIDE HIGH-LEVEL

PCU LEADERS WHO WERE ACCUSTOMED TO MOVING ONCE A WEEK THROUGHOUT A NETWORK OF SUCH PLACES. IT COULD ALSO BE USED, THEY SAID, AS A "PEOPLE'S JAIL" OR AS A CENTER OF INDOCTRINATION.

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3. LARGE QUANTITIES OF WEAPONS, INCLUDING SMALL ARMS, M-16 AND AR-15 AUTOMATIC RIFLES, GRENADES, MORTARS AND AMMUNITION WERE EXHIBITED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES AT A PRESS CONFERENCE.

R. THE CAPTURE OF VEHICLES, A FOUR-PLACE CESSNA AIRCRAFT, AND A TWIN-ENGINE, EIGHT-METER MOTOR BOAT WERE ALSO MADE PUBLIC.

5. COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLIES, INCLUDING RADIO AND TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT, WERE ALSO SHOWN TO REPORTERS.

6. THE REVELATIONS CONCERNING THE CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES OF THE PCU HAVE RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN ALL BUT ONE OF URUGUAY'S MAJOR DAILY NEWSPAPERS. ONLY EL DIA HAS SEEN FIT TO RELEGATE THIS NEWS TO THE BACK PAGES. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS CONFINED TO THE CONSERVATIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER LA MANANA, WHICH SAID THAT THE ARRESTS OF A NUMBER OF PCU LEADERS AND THE SEIZING OF THE MEMBERSHIP ROLLS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS OF THE PARTY HAVE DIMINISHED THE PARTY'S CAPABILITIES, BUT IT WOULD BE WRONG TO THINK THAT THE MARXIST MENACE AGAINST THE COUNTRY WILL BE LESS BECAUSE OF THESE TRIUMPHS OF COUNTERINSURGENCY. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATION HAS A INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND IT OPERATES ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS EMPLOYING A VARIETY OF TACTICS, MANY OF WHICH ARE OUTSIDE THE NORMAL FIELD OF ACTION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE, LA MANANA SAID, THE EXISTENCE OF A VAST ARMED UNDERGROUND APPARATUS. THIS APPARATUS OUTLIVED THE COLLAPSE OF THE TUPAMARO GUERRILLAS. THE MARXIST RESERVE FORCES WOULD HAVE BEEN A DECISIVE FACTOR IN CASE THE LEFT SHOULD HAVE TRIUMPHED. IT WAS AN ERROR TO THINK THAT THE PCU WAS SOLD ON PURELY ELECTORAL TACTICS.

7. TONIGHT, DECEMBER 30, TV AND RADIO STATIONS PLAN A JOINT SPECIAL ON THE ARREST OF THE PCU FIGURES AND SUBSEQUENT CAPTURE OF THE EQUIPMENT.
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